



# CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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EDWARD G. RENDELL  
MAYOR

May 10, 1999

Honorable Robert A. Borski  
United States House of Representatives  
2267 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Borski:

I am writing you in support of the Community Revitalization and Brownfields Cleanup Act of 1999 which you and Congressman Ed Towns are introducing tomorrow in the United States House of Representatives.

The Urban Brownfields program of the Environmental Protection Agency has been a real shot in the arm to Philadelphia and so many American cities that were hubs of heavy manufacturing earlier this century. These sites once housed plants that spurred the American industrial revolution and modernized a nation, providing thousands upon thousands of good-paying quality jobs. In time, many companies moved from these sites, leaving behind not only scores of workers, but toxic materials that caused great environmental damage.

Thanks to the Brownfields program, and your leadership in Congress on this issue, the pendulum is gradually swinging back in our direction. For example, consider the former Publicker Industries site, a whiskey factory that had been on the EPA's Superfund cleanup list since 1987. Without the Brownfields program, it would still be an environmentally dangerous eyesore by the Delaware River. Today, on that very site stands a beautiful, vibrant marine terminal that has created 450 jobs.

The Community Revitalization and Brownfields Cleanup Act of 1999 allows us to sustain the momentum that we have built in Philadelphia and all over the country. While we can be proud of the sites we have remediated, there are so many more that still require prompt attention. I strongly support your bill and urge your colleagues to do the same. If it would be helpful, I am more than happy to contact any Members of Congress and tell them of the difference the Brownfields program has made in Philadelphia. I thank you for your leadership on this issue of paramount importance to our City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Edward G. Rendell in dark ink.

EDWARD G. RENDELL